THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) At present, there are 529 Scientific & Industrial Research Organisations (SIROs) duly recognised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) which are engaged in scientific and/or industrial research. A sector-wise distribution of the SIROs is: (a) Agricultural Sciences (35 Nos.) (b) Medical Sciences (165 Nos.); (c) Natural and Applied Sciences (190 Nos.). (d) Social Sciences (115 Nos.); and (e) Universities/Colleges (25 Nos.) The SIROs cover all the laboratories under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research; R&D Institutions set up and/or supported/funded by Government Departments such as Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Electronics, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and others; Institutions of National Importance, Professional Bodies, Universities and IITs; and those promoted/set up by industrial units, individuals, and others, SIROs recognised by DSIR are eligible for Notification u/s 35(i) (ii)/(iii) of I.T. Act, 1961 and Customs Duty Exemption as per provisions contained in Customs Act, 1962.

Recognition granted to SIROs by DSIR is for a specified duration, ranging from 1 to 5 years, after which it is reviewed. Recognition is granted on the basis of legal status of the SIRO, broad based Governing Board and Research Advisory Committee, broad areas of research, grants/donations received, R&D expenditure, infrastructural facilities available, broad research programme and scientific achievements. Since specific information on foreign asistance secured, projects which were taken up with foreign assistance and actual expenditure on new projects by SIROs is not essential for according recognition, it was neither asked for in the application proforma for seeking recognition/renewal, nor was it provided by the SIROs in the past.

Some SIROs have secured foreign assistance in the previous years. An illustrative list of 20 SIROs, details on foreign assistance secured by them, projects taken up with foreign assistance and expenditure on new projects, as reported by these SIROs, is given in the *Annexure*. [*See Appendix 179, annexure no. 56*]

Speeding up Implementation of MPLADS

2837. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained that the pace at which the implementing agencies implement the MPLADS schemes has increased after Government took measures to see that the schemes are implemented fast;

(b) if so, what are Government's observations; and

(c) what other steps would be taken to see that delays in actually finishing the works are reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The trend in expenditure under the MPLADS shows that the pace of implementation of the Scheme gained momentum in 1995-96.

(c) It is impressed on the District Collectors to step up the pace of implementation. Specific cases of delay which come to the notice, are taken up with the concerned collector/State Government.

Global offer of Finances and know-how for Oil Exploration

2838, SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any global offer of finances and technical know-how for oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the stages where they are at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.